

**The Brethren Evangelist**

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ASHLAND, Ohio, Jan. 9, 1889.

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**Discouragements.**

A brother writes that he was never so discouraged in his life. This surprised us. It surprised us because we see no occasion for discouragement. It also puzzled us to understand what the aim of his religious life is. Many conditions could be imagined in which there would be great reason for discouragement. If God held any one individual responsible for the moral condition of the world, then he should truly feel discouraged. If any one man was held responsible for the religious condition of the world he should feel discouraged. If any one man was held responsible for the condition of godliness in any denomination, he should feel discouraged. If any one man is held responsible for the religious opinions, action or deeds of any other person beyond what his own influence and teaching has led him, then he should feel discouraged.

We believe that the age has reached that degree of enlightenment that the elder, deacon and lay member understand that life and joy in the regeneration is a matter between the individuals themselves and their God. It is a mistake for any one to suppose that he is the special guardian of God's treasury of truth and joy, and when things do not go as to him seemeth right, that God is hanging a wonderful calamity over him and confiscating his corner lot in the New Jerusalem. Unless he does so regard himself there is no occasion for him to be discouraged.

Every man should understand that there standeth no man between himself and Christ. God will bring him to judgment, and then the demand will not be how much sin was in the world when he lived, how pure or how corrupt the church was, what the doctrine that one or all or a few believed was, whether that other fellow kept the ordinances right or wrong, whether another paid fifty cents or ten dollars to support the church or the mission cause, but the demand will come straight from His Almighty tongue, have you obeyed my commandments? If you have, then all is well. "Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

Men have ambitions, of course,

even in aspirations to build up a denomination, and too frequently that is the all-inspiring influence that actuates. When one is successful in that line of work he has his reward, and if he fails, then he fails, and is discouraged as a natural consequence. A mind so imbued is in danger of overlooking his highest and greatest responsibility and suffer, it may even be his right to immortality and everlasting life, by neglecting his duty to God and the commands of the Lord Jesus. When an individual preaches the gospel as he is able and as it is, and applies himself to the work faithfully, then he has discharged his obligations to God, and merits the reward. It was all one to Jonas, so far as his reward was involved whether the Ninevites repented or not. In fact he was disappointed and discouraged that they did repent, because it was, in a degree, an impeachment of his veracity as a prophet. But his future depended not on whether the wicked city repented or repented not, but on the matter of performing what God had commanded him to do.

This article is not written with any reference to what was referred to at the opening, but upon general principles, and to direct attention to the relation of each individual to Christ and his work. St. Paul says that even if any man's work is burned up, he shall yet be saved: that is, of course, if he lives true to the gospel.

All we can see before us is this life and then eternity, and to be a troubled Martha, is no necessity in the Christian life or out. Contentment with godliness is great gain, asserted one of the most devout men. Where that hope exists that is an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast, and contentment with it, there is a heart that is full of sunshine and happy anticipation. This life, to make the best of it, is a very unsatisfactory one, and never satisfies the heart's longing for comfort, peace, and the gratification of the ambitious desires of the mind.

There used to be a song like this:

"Happy is the man  
Whose God is the Lord."

And the sentiment is fully realized where, with singleness of heart, there is implicit trust placed in that God, which implies a ready willingness to accept whatever the stream of life brings upon us.

Life is like a journey against the current of a mighty river. If there is not a constant effort to move onward and upward, there will be a backward drifting. Where effort is put forth, there is constant driftwood and the fragments of wrecks of various kinds, that will be met, and too frequently the humble boatman will attach himself to some of them, in the hope of conveying them with him to the end of his journey. He finds after a little experience that the tendency of his new acquisition is wholly to go with the current, and he is neither able to hold his own or make the progress he desires. Discouragement ensues, and even in many instances complete abandonment of the journey to glory. Very often is this sad condition created in marriages. One or the other is swimming down the stream and enjoys the easy going, while

the other desires and makes an effort to go up to that which is purer, higher and grander.

Cast off discouragement, make amends for any wrongs done, put on the whole armor of God, and sorrow and darkness will flee away.

As far as the Brethren cause is concerned, there is no occasion for the least discouragement. The future never looked more promising. And let every general take care of his own regiment. Each will be rewarded for the work he does, and will not be condemned for what some other one does not do.

**Enduring to the End.**

On the approach of Christ's departure by the way of the betrayal and crucifixion, he delivered a famous rebuke to the rulers in Israel—such a scourging, by language, was probably never anywhere else uttered. This was in the temple, and when he concluded, he departed from the temple. Then his disciples came to him in a private way, desiring to know when destruction should again come over the loved and cherished temple. He then pulled away the prophetic veil and presented to their conception and knowledge, the experiences to be undergone in the future. He commences the prophecy with this warning: "Take heed that no man deceive you: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and deceive many." To this is added a catalogue of calamities that shall come upon the world and men, and the sufferings the faithful must endure, and further, he says: "Because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold. But he that endureth unto the end, the same shall be saved." Here is a condition that affects the seeker of life and immortality. The language means that he who continues in love unto the end shall be saved.

Here is a test set up by the Almighty, and the conditions attending life differ in no respect now, from those existing when the words came from the tongue of Him who spake as never man spake.

"Because iniquity shall abound." Is there less fruit from the weeds of sin now than in the years of centuries ago? No. Iniquity now abounds, and it abounds no less in consequence of age. It is a character that grows not feeble or infirm. No silvery locks tell the story of decaying strength and approaching dissolution. But strong, vigorous and powerful, iniquity stalks onward in its ruinous march to trample down every intelligent creature who has not gathered around him the safeguards of salvation and the Spirit of God.

Iniquity has an effect upon love like water has upon fire. It will cause love to grow cold; and where love is cold, the salvation of God abides not. But he that endureth unto the end shall be saved. How well did Christ utter the warning to watch. Danger is lurking everywhere, such danger as may take away an individual's hope of glory and rest in the kingdom of heaven. The endurance is an endurance in warm love, and this must continue unto the end to carry the one who loves into the haven of love eternal and life everlasting.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Bro. Blough presents a beautiful theme for preachers and writers, in requesting some one to write on the subject of following Christ through the regeneration.

At the time when Jesus said, "Watch, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come," he virtually meant, study and understand the prophecies, and be prepared to receive the good things at the end of the way that they mark.

The prospects for a large number of students at the College next fall are already very promising. We have always said, give the brethren half a chance, and they will soon have an immense school. Ashland County and vicinity will turn in one hundred students when the community is convinced that the school has settled on a solid foundation. There will be five hundred students at Ashland in five years from now.

Our readers are treated to a splendid little letter on the subject of the "External and Internal," by Bro. Josiah Brindle.

In the portion of the epistle of Polycarp given this week, he recognizes but two church offices—elder and deacon, and further it is manifest from the section printed that those officers filled the function of ruler in the church.

The Huguenots are carrying on a vigorous mission work in Paris. Recently in the American chapel in Paris, one of their readers said in the course of an address that the Huguenots could not be crushed out, but would live and work until France was spiritually free, if it required another St. Bartholomew.

The German Evangelical Alliance is making preparations to enter upon a war against the papal power in this country, both in religion and politics.

Subscriptions are coming in in a very satisfactory way. No one should feel too poor to take the church paper this year.

Articles of news come in often too late to be printed in the paper the senders expects. The paper is full and the type all out of the cases, and then such articles must wait. Printing is like the waters of a great river: it comes on continually, and there is no stopping and waiting.

During the holidays patrons cannot get their paper regularly. Mail agents on the train are off, post offices are closed on holidays, and there is always a great increase in the bulk of mail handled. All these things delay. But if any fail to get their papers, please write for the missing copy, after a reasonable time.

In like manner as Christ ascended he will come again, two men in white apparel testified as he was passing from the sight of the men of Galilee who were gathered with him for a conversation. Two constitute a quorum according to the divine rule. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. In the subject of Christ's second coming there is the larger number. Christ testified of himself that he would come again, and the two angels, two men in white apparel also testified of his coming, and the manner in which he would come. This is strong evidence. In the first place there is the word of Christ which can not be impeached, and then the angels both corroborated it. The signs of the times indicate the near approach of that coming. A wonderful scene it will be when every eye shall behold him.

Nothing squeamish about this. From the report of the late conference of the Church of God Eldership of Kansas, we find the following, which is interesting in the way of seeing how other denominations do their work:

WHEREAS, Certain circuits have failed to raise amounts assessed on them to aid in meeting assessment made by General Eldership for missionary purposes; therefore, we suggest the amounts be still collected off said circuits in addition to the assessment for the coming year.

WHEREAS, We learn from reports of some of our ministerial brethren that in some localities deacons have refused to take up collections required, and have neglected to provide sufficient support for their pastors: therefore be it

Resolved, That we deem such a course to be unscriptural, detrimental to co-operation, and we disapprove of such a course.

Bro. E. B. Shaver expects to hold a meeting for the Brethren in Philadelphia, to commence this week.

Bro. J. D. McFaden will soon go to Johnstown, Pa., to hold a series of meetings. Johnstown is an excellent field as there is much room for development. The brethren are well acquainted with Bro. M. and a glorious work will no doubt be done in the name of the Lord.

The Falls City church does not do things by halves when it commences. One hundred dollars for missions, in one year, we believe, is better than the record of any other church in the Brotherhood. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

The Sultan of Turkey is making it more dangerous to do wrong, and decrees that thieves shall have their left hand taken off. Punishment for theft should be severe, as it is the forerunner of greater evils, but the Sultan's remedy is severe.

We have the pleasure of announcing an article by Bro. J. H. Worst for next week.

The Methodist ministers of Indiana have united in a movement in opposition to the inauguration ball. We cordially say amen to their procedure. The feasting, drunkenness and revelry on such occasions is an insult to the piety and religious sentiment of the nation. It is wickedness in high places on which the vials of condemnation should be poured.

Charles Parsons was recently fined \$500 for chaining a Polish boy to wagon on a bitter cold day, in Northampton, Mass. He is dealing in white slaves, or in other words, European pauper labor. There is a work for Christians in correcting that enormity that is being fastened upon this country by speculators.

Bro. Bashor will favor our readers with an excellent article next week.

**Bro. E. Mason's Book.**

I have had the pleasure of investigating Bro. E. Mason's book, "The Gospel According to Jesus," and find that the subject matter contained in it is the best, in my judgment, of any book written by any of our brethren. It sets forth the ordinances of Christ in their proper light. I therefore recommend it to all lovers of truth. God bless it in its important mission. Eld. R. H. Miller wrote a work some years ago on the doctrine of the church, which was said to be the best work then written, but Bro. Mason's book contains facts which R. H. Miller never thought of.

JOHN NICHOLSON.

Morrill, Kan., Dec. 28, 1888.

**LITERATURE.**

One of the latest readable productions is "Famous Women of the Old Testament," comprising a series of lectures by Rev. M. B. Wharton, D. D.

The varied qualities, work and offices of women are admirably described in this book. The beauty, intellect, power and influence of the sex in the role of maidens, wives and mothers, are depicted by one who is a keen observer of human nature, who has enjoyed special opportunities, by travel and position, to see society in all its phases; who has wielded a facile pen in portraying what he has seen and learned, and has used it in the illustration of these lectures. Sentiments and facts, whether pleasant or unpleasant, in the life of woman, including love, courtship, marriage, divorce, heroism, jealousy, deceit, are treated in their appropriate places, as suggested by the character, under the calm light of the lecturer, and the good and evil traits in these famous women in oriental lands are made to read salutary lessons to their sisters of the present day. 318 pages. \$1.75.

E. B. TREAT, Publisher,  
771 Broadway, New York.

"Topics for Prayer Meetings" is the title of a neat little book published by the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A. The books of like character heretofore published have proved of good service in the past to many pastors and other Christian workers in furnishing suitable subjects for prayer and gospel meetings for young men and others.

A new feature of this issue is a list of 52 topics for boy's meetings. It may be obtained from the Committee at cost of publication, viz.: 5 cents per copy.

Address,  
RICHARD C. MORSE,  
New York City.  
40 East Twenty-third Street.

Ayer's Almanac for 1889, published by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., comes to us in the shape of a neat presentation book of about five hundred pages, being made up of numerous editions calculated for the latitudes of many lands. A score or more of nationalities are addressed in their own languages in this volume, and could they all be heard clamoring together for Ayer's Sarsaparilla and Ayer's Pills what a Babel would break forth! Ayer's Almanac, in its familiar yellow cover, has long been known as the most accurate and reliable of its kind; and if any one is ignorant of the superior merits of Ayer's medicines, and suffers in consequence, it is not the fault of this enterprising firm, who scatter their "leaves" by the million, "for the healing of the nations." Ask your druggist for Ayer's Almanac.